

Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for October 12:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2010

Contact:

Hollie Brown, 801-537-3477

Deena Loyola, 801-538-7347 / cell 801-554-5199

stateparks.utah.gov

- 24th Annual Bison Range Ride and Roundup
- Change in Access Hours at Washington County Reservoirs
- Boating Safety Tip of the Week
- Terror at the Track - Halloween Event at Jordan River OHV Area
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

24th ANNUAL BISON RANGE RIDE AND ROUNDUP

Syracuse – Visit Antelope Island State Park and witness a western roundup from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, October 29 and if necessary, Saturday, October 30. (In previous years, most bison are moved the first day.) This annual event is an opportunity to view one of the nation's largest and oldest public herds as horseback riders move the bison from the southern tip of the island, to the handling facility located at the park's northern end.

View riders and bison from the eastside road leading to the Fielding Garr Ranch. A complete and sweeping view of the action is available from a safe distance. Bring binoculars for a closer view of the animals and handlers.

Visit the bison corrals November 5 and 6 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and observe as the bison are weighed, blood-tested, inoculated, and scanned. All bison have a microchip implanted behind the ear, which serves as permanent identification and stores the animal's health history.

On Saturday, November 13, excess bison will be sold in order to keep the population within the carrying capacity of the island's available forage. The sale is held at the Antelope Island State Park Bison Corrals. Sale animals may be viewed as early as 8 a.m. with the sale beginning at 10 a.m. sharp. For additional sale information, please call Steve Bates at 801-209-4678.

To reach Antelope Island State Park, take I-15 to exit 332 (Syracuse-Freeport Center) and travel west on Antelope Drive to the entrance station. Park fees are \$9 per vehicle or \$3 for bicyclists and walk-ins. For more information, please call 801-773-2941.

###

CHANGE IN ACCESS HOURS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY RESERVOIRS

Hurricane – Due to reduced staffing and the efforts required to contain Quagga mussels at Sand Hollow Reservoir, fall and winter boating access hours at state park reservoirs in Washington County will be reduced.

Sand Hollow Reservoir: Winter park hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Availability of boat washing facilities will be determined by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Quail Creek Reservoir: Winter park hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Weekday boat ramp access from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend boat ramp access from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., through October. Hours subject to change depending on weather and available staff.

Gunlock Reservoir: Winter park hours. Ramp open weekends in October, plus October 14 and 15 (UEA). Closed November through February.

Utah law requires inspection of all watercraft prior to launching at these reservoirs to prevent contamination of our water resources. Washington County waters are extremely vulnerable to infestation through transfer of mussels or water from infested waters, particularly Lake Mead and other lakes on the Lower Colorado River.

Quagga mussel infestation has an enormous impact on boating, fishing, and water resources. Utah State Parks and Recreation, Division of Wildlife Resources and the Washington County Water Conservancy District appreciate public cooperation in preventing the spread of invasive species in Utah waters.

###

BOATING SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

Salt Lake City – As air temperatures begin to cool and water temperatures drop, Assistant Boating Program Manager Chris Haller urges all boaters to wear life jackets and remember these cold weather safety tips.

- Always wear a life jacket. Not only will it keep you afloat, it provides an extra layer of warmth if you end up in the water. Wearing a life jacket can also aid in self-rescue, providing extra time to climb back into the boat. Statistics show 75 percent of those who drowned in boating accidents would have survived had they worn a life jacket.

- Weather can change very rapidly and create unexpected situations. Always watch for weather changes and monitor forecasts. As always, make sure to inform a friend or relative of where you are boating and when you expect to return.

- State boating law requires all children 12 years of age and younger to wear a life jacket while a boat is in operation. Utah State Parks recommends that all boaters wear life jackets at all times.

For more information or to take a boating safety course, visit stateparks.utah.gov or call 801-538-BOAT. Wear it Utah!

###

TERROR AT THE TRACK - HALLOWEEN EVENT AT JORDAN RIVER OHV AREA

Salt Lake City – Ride Terror at the Track at Jordan River Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) State Recreation Area Friday, October 22 from 3 to 8 p.m. Only youth age eight to 15 are invited to ride in costume during this time. Cost is \$10 per family.

Also enjoy a tricked out trunk-or-treat from 6 p.m. to sundown with prizes for best, most creative and scariest trunks or vehicles.

All riders must wear helmets and all machines must be currently registered. State required youth off-highway vehicle education certificate must be carried while riding.

Jordan River OHV State Recreation Area is located on Rose Park Lane, Exit 25 off I-215. For more information, call 801-533-5425.

###

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

October 25 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Geology Program: Join Ranger Dave Zuch and learn about the fascinating geology surrounding Dead Horse Point State Park. Meet at the Neck at 6:45 p.m. 435-259-2614

October 28 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante
Geology Hike: Explore the region's amazing geology on a guided one-mile hike with the park naturalist. View 200 million years of Earth history from the Petrified Forest Trail. Meet at the visitor center at 10 a.m. 435-826-4466

October 29 Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum- Fairfield
Ghosts of Camp Floyd - Is Camp Floyd haunted? Participate in a paranormal investigation of Camp Floyd at 6 p.m. Bring their own tape recorders, film, digital and infrared cameras. Enjoy a brief presentation about ghost hunting techniques before the investigation begins. 801-768-8932

October 29 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante
Nature Hike - Leave No Trace: Explore the park and learn to leave no trace on a guided one-mile hike. Meet at the visitor center at 10 a.m. 435-826-4466

October 29 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins
Up in the Night- Introduction to Bats: Join Wildlife Biologist Keith Day at 6:30 p.m., to learn about the 16 species of bats that call Washington County home. 435-628-2255

October 29 – 30 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins
Johnson Canyon Hike: Join us for a hike to Johnson Canyon and Johnson Arch Friday, October 29 at 4 p.m., and Saturday, October 30 at 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of the area as you traverse lava flows and a desert scrub community on this ranger-led, two-mile hike. Space is limited and registration is required. 435-628-2255

October 29 Fremont Indian State Park and Museum - Sevier
Scary Story Trail: Enjoy an evening of trick-or-treating, a haunted trail, hayrides, storytellers and campfires, crafts, games and contests. Events are held in the visitor center from 5 to 8 p.m. 435-527-4631

October 30 Sand Hollow State Park – Hurricane
Annual OHV Poker Run: Enjoy the annual OHV poker run, fun, and prizes beginning at 10 a.m. Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. Day-use and camping fees apply. 435-680-0715

October 30 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante
Bird Watching: Enjoy an easy stroll through the park as we learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides are provided. Meet at the visitor center at 9:30 a.m. 435-826-4466

-utah state parks-